

# Speak Out

Have an opinion or a question about a public issue? Post it anytime at the Public Issues Forums at [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com) It is a hometown forum so visit the page as often as you would like and share your comments (but no personal attacks or profanities, please). You can also make a comment by calling our Speak Out 24-hour opinion line at 623-445-2850 ext. 2. Comments will be published in the newspaper as space permits.

**MCKELLIPS ROUNABOUT:** That roundabout thing on McKellips is the stupidest thing I have ever seen in the middle of the desert. Whoever thought of that and approved it should be fired. What a waste of taxpayers money, Someone needs to explain to may people what good it does.

**MASSAGE THERAPY:** I'm a massage therapist at a chiropractor's office in the East Mesa/Apache Junction area, and I am so tired of men coming into our office looking for adult massage. I'm tired of them coming in and sexually harassing us. We're trying to help people with legitimate medical problems; the doctor is in the same building with us. Most of us are middle-aged women, we don't wear makeup, we don't have long fingernails, sexy outfits, beaded curtains and incense burning. Here's a clue for you guys: If the sign says medical, therapeutic or chiropractic, we're not giving the type of massage you're looking for. And for the record, we can spot you a mile away: you don't have an appointment, you want the massage right now, you have a sneaky look about you and you smell weird. You think you are being so nonchalant and sly; we laugh at you when you leave and we watch what car you get in and write down your license plate number and compare them with our colleagues at different offices in the area just in case. So stay away from the medical offices and take your dirty desires someplace else.

**SVE:** To the "self-centered" SVE individual who moved into a retirement village: There is nothing wrong with still being employed at a job, but perhaps you could transfer to a second- or third-shift job so you can attend and be represented at regular BOD meetings. That would be much simpler than requiring some 4,000 residents changing the time of the regular BOD meetings to allow you "proper representation." SVE did not become a retirement village since you bought and moved here three years ago. Oh yeah, you are in fact represented by seven BOD members and one HOA manager, all of whom make themselves available, giving you proper representation and concerns.

**RECYCLING:** To the person from New Jersey on recycling: You're on our team. We need people who take the time to recycle. Just south of the library on Power Road is the answer. Plus, there are many places for newspapers right here in Mesa. It's sad to see our neighbors throw everything in the garbage, and these people aren't old or disabled. Good luck.

**MCCAIN VOTE:** Someone wrote to not vote for McCain. If we vote for that other fellow, he has said that he will raise capital gain taxes from the current 15 percent to 28 percent and taxes on dividends will go from the current 15 percent to 30 percent and also expand the inheritance tax, just to mention a few. So, he's wanting to change things. If he's elected, about all we'll have left is some change.

**STATE POLICE:** It's amazing that state police organizations arrested over 300 on warrants and had a nice press conference without the circus ringmaster.

**BOND QUESTIONS:** The governor wants to save, but my bank tells me I can't buy more than one \$1,000 bond per year for my grandchildren. How's that going to help catch the money-launderers of the country? Another stupid law. The bad guys just take their cash and go to the Caribbean to bank. Really fair news.

**NEWS OF DRIVE-BY SHOOTINGS:** How come the drive-by shooting in an affluent neighborhood isn't as much news as the ones in the poorer ones? Much hurt property values, I guess.

**AVOID CANCER:** To honor someone you know in plain language, gentleman: If you want to avoid prostate or colon cancer, fit your natural functions of life into your busy-day schedule of labor. No fooling, no cheating. Ladies: Same message to you. Slow down, enjoy life. Thank you for print. In honor of Tony Snow.

**EUROPE OF THE 1930S:** Discovering the schools teach seldom information of Europe in the 1930s, the kids today should be reading the report on Sheriff Joe. Deja vu all over again? In America?

**WATER PARK:** Never mind the city tax giveaway to so-called developers of the water park. What's the new mayor and council going to do about developing the destruction of a natural riverbed? Shouldn't nature come first finally?

**GOING GREEN:** Hooray for the going green generation. They've learned from the old make-do do-over gang and America is getting back on track. God bless America.

**PRESIDENT COMMENT RIDICULOUS:** I really enjoy your paper and I enjoy the Speak Out, even though some of them are so ridiculous. You have in here that you want no personal attacks. Last week you had a No. 1 article that the present president, you would bury him like a dog. Now, if that isn't a personal attack, I don't know what that is and I think it's horrible. Talk to Todd about that. Tell him I called and I am so upset that he would print something with such utter disrespect for our president, who I happen to love. He is a great president and probably will go down in history as saving us from a horrible, horrible future. Just wanted you to know that to bury the president like a dog isn't very nice language to be using in your Speak Out. Thanks for having a wonderful paper. I love your paper.

**ON LIBERAL PEOPLE:** I do not understand you liberal people who are accusing President Bush of everything from raising the high price of gasoline to \$4 to wanting to fight Iraq for their oil, and yet President Bush lifted the ban on drilling and guess what? Harry Reid will not vote for it. You tell me who is wrong. The Republicans want the oil to be drilled here in this country and to be dependent on it ourselves from our own country and yet you've got the liberals, such as Harry Reid on Capitol Hill, saying "Oh, that won't do no good." They don't want to try anything; they want to force the American people to pay \$4 and up for a gallon of gas. That is your liberal party for you. It's time we get behind Bush and the Republicans and vote to get this oil drilled in America and bring out gasoline prices down and be dependent on our own country and not buying everybody else's oil.

**TRAFFIC LIGHT OUT:** When will the city of Mesa or Maricopa County be fixing the traffic light at University Drive and Crismon Road? One of the eastbound lights has been out for over a week. Sure, there is a backup, but I always seem to focus on the wrong one at the stop.

**RIDGES IN STREET:** Has anyone noticed the ridges in the street southbound on Recker Road from McLellan, which are big enough to grab a tire and pull your vehicle to the right? Now that we have to drive in the bike lane because of the construction cones, I've noticed the huge chunks removed from the pavement and have wondered how bicyclists can maneuver there. Is the city of Mesa going to fix this? Or is the contractor putting in the pipe going to fix this?

*Editor's note: The following comments were made via our public forums at [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com).*

**BUS SERVICE:** I agree that the time is now for increased bus service in Mesa, especially East Mesa. I am a bus driver for Valley Metro and I can tell you firsthand that there is a overpowering need for increased transit in Mesa, especially on weekends. The way that the system is set up now all of Mesa's transit is half of what is running in Phoenix and Tempe – there is 15-minute service in Phoenix and Tempe, only 30-minute service in Mesa Monday-Friday. This means that every other bus running east towards Mesa must let off all its passengers at Price Road and the 101 to wait for another thru bus or walk into Mesa. As it is now when a bus enters Mesa it is packed because of the extra wait for service.

## Public issues forums

Join the discussion of important issues at [newszap.com](http://newszap.com). Topics include:

- **Mesa issues:** [www.newszapforums.com/forum15/](http://www.newszapforums.com/forum15/)
- **Apache Junction issues:** [www.newszapforums.com/forum7/](http://www.newszapforums.com/forum7/)
- **Chandler issues:** [www.newszapforums.com/forum13/](http://www.newszapforums.com/forum13/)
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- **Queen Creek issues:** [www.newszapforums.com/forum27/](http://www.newszapforums.com/forum27/)

Go to [newszap.com](http://newszap.com), click on your community and then on "community forums and links."

# Letters

## Sizing up the legislative session

In the final days of the legislative session, the Arizona Chamber and several other organizations sent a note to the state legislature that read simply, "Please sine die [adjourn] as soon as possible before any more damage is done." This short and sweet note sums up the general attitude of frustration within the business community toward the Arizona legislature.

Despite a disappointing session, the Arizona business community showed itself a more united force than ever before. Amidst the legislative setbacks, there were several positive outcomes. And some measures that fell short gathered strong momentum for next year.

Arizona's business community worked effectively with the state legislature to make important clarifications to the current employer sanctions law. While not perfect, the clarifications do provide a greater degree of protection from the originally more onerous law.

Businesses in Arizona can also be encouraged that the legislature took one step to improve our competitive edge by enhancing the existing tax credit for research and development. This will make Arizona a more attractive location for new R&D activities that bring complementary private investment and high wage jobs.

The business community also came together in a powerful way by calling for the Governor to sign into law the permanent re-

## Letters Policy

The purpose of our opinion page is to provide an open forum for our readers. We seek to stimulate community debate, not to dominate or control it.

We welcome and read all letters. Please include your address and phone number so we can contact you for clarification or confirmation. Because of limited space, we may condense or edit letters. We do not publish form letters, copies or letters written to other publications. The shorter the letter, the better its chance of publication. Letters should be no more than 500 words. Readers may post letters on our Web site at [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com).

peal of a statewide property tax. This bill passed through the legislature and went to the Governor where she received a letter from 40 chambers of commerce across the state calling on her to sign it. Ultimately the Governor vetoed the bill, but there is no question the strong coalition of Arizona businesses will be back next year to ensure this property tax is eliminated or extended before Arizonans see a tax hike.

Another issue that was a casualty of the budget black hole near the end of session was the temporary guest worker bill. This proposal had strong bi-partisan support in both the House and Senate and brought multiple facets of the business community together to call for increased access to a legal labor pool. This issue is sure to return next session with a strong contingent of support.

The complete Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry legislative session wrap is available at <http://www.azchamber.com/uploads/2008%20Session%20Report.pdf>.

**Glenn Hamer**  
President, CEO  
Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry

# Guest Commentary

## Recycle for Reading benefits library

By **Mariano Reyes**

Recycling not only saves the planet but now can also help raise up to a total of \$25,000 to benefit the city of Mesa Library through the Recycle for Reading Program.

For every additional pound of material Mesa residents recycle over last year's total between now

and June 30, 2009, a direct contribution will be made to the library for the purchase of new library material. Reaching this goal is as easy as every Mesa household recycling just one extra pound of material per week.

Participating in the program is easy. Mesa residents are asked to simply place the following

items into their blue recycle barrel at home: Aluminum and metal cans, glass bottles and jars, newspapers, office paper, junk mail, milk and juice cartons, telephone books and magazines, cardboard and paperboard, plastic bottles, jugs and jars.

For more information, residents may call the Mesa Recycling

and '80's for starters. If Decades is located in the area of Eloy where we hope, there should be room to eventually add other "lands."

Decades Music Theme Park isn't the only thing we hope to bring to Pinal County, though. Yes, a hotel and shopping area are also in the planning stages for the district. But there could be much more.

We believe that much like what happened in Orlando; a big attraction will attract other attractions. Central Florida not only boasts Disneyworld but also Sea World, Universal Studios and a myriad of other attractions big and small. The case is the same for Anaheim, Calif.

Some might accuse us of dreaming big – but they did the same thing. Rock artists, leading developers, Fender Musical Instruments and renowned concert promoter Danny Zelisko, among others, have responded.

During this process we have met so many of the wonderful people in Pinal County. We were welcomed with open arms and warm smiles by community groups, political and business leaders alike. You believe in your community and you believed in us. Thank you for the warm hospitality and political embrace.

And thank you again to Gov. Napolitano, state legislative leaders and the many others who helped us get this far.

We intend to just roll up our sleeves and get to work with you turning a dream into a reality.

**Greg Sherman and Martin West**  
Principals, DecadesMusic Theme Park

# Guest Commentary

## Mesa Fire identifies monsoon dangers

By **Marrisa P. Ramirez-Ramos**

With the recent monsoon storms that have hit the Valley hard in the last week, we put together this monsoon tip sheet.

Some of the potential emergencies in Arizona that residents need to be aware of and plan for are: monsoon storms, floods, wildfires, power outages and extreme heat conditions.

The monsoon brings rain that is needed and welcomed, but along with that rain comes many hazards. According to the Web site [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) flooding is the nation's most common natural disaster.

### Facts and figures

Snapshot of what the monsoon can cause to happen in the Public Safety Communications Center, on Aug. 24, 2006:

- 781 calls were received where average is 344 for the same time period
- 590 of which were 9-1-1 calls; 9-1-1 average is 74.
- Significant fire events included three working house fires and a 2N1 medical event requiring an air ambulance.
- In total, four fire channels went tactical, a second response channel was initiated and condition two was declared – all simultaneously.
- A total of six consoles were utilized to work the fire traffic alone.

### Thunder storms, lightning

- If you can hear thunder then you are close enough to be struck by lightning.
- Go to a sturdy building or a hard-topped vehicle. You should remain in this shelter 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard.
- Telephone lines conduct electricity, so avoid using the phone during a storm.
- Metal pipes also conduct electricity, so avoid taking showers and baths or using running water during a storm.
- Bring pets indoors because lightning is very scary for them and they are likely to panic and run away.

### High winds

- Arizona thunderstorm winds often exceed 40 mph and straight-line winds can exceed 100 mph.
- Move in to a central interior room away from windows to avoid blowing debris that could shatter windows.
- If you are driving in high winds reduce speed and anticipate steering correction when moving from protected to unprotected wind areas or when encountering

- large passing vehicles.
- Be aware of high-profile vehicles; trucks, semis, buses, campers or those towing a trailer because they can be unpredictable during high wind conditions.

### Dust storms

- If you are caught in a dust storm while driving, pull off the roadway as far as safely possible. Turn off your headlights and tail-lights, put your vehicle in park and take your foot off the brake.
- With reduced visibility other drivers behind you could see the brake lights and assume you are driving on the road and follow your lights.
- When severe dust storms occur you should consider cleaning your smoke detectors. Dust can clog detectors and cause false alarms.

### Floods

- Nearly half of all flood fatalities are vehicle-related (National Weather Service). Never drive into a flooded roadway.
- It is extremely difficult to estimate the depth of running water or the strength of a current.
- Never drive around barricades. They are there for a reason – usually because flooding is anticipated or already happening. In addition, the road could be damaged and unsafe for drivers.
- It only takes one to two feet of water to float most vehicles, including SUVs.
- Never allow children to play near washes or storm drains after any rainfall. Children can be swept away.

### Downed power lines

- Across a roadway:
  - Consider any downed power line energized and dangerous. Never touch a downed power line or anything close to a downed power line. High voltage can travel through the ground. Stay at least 100 feet away from any downed lines.
- Across a vehicle:
  - If the vehicle is occupied, stay in the vehicle until professional help arrives.
  - Avoid contact with metal surfaces both inside and outside the vehicle.
  - If there is a fire in the vehicle, jump from the vehicle landing on both feet. Hop away, keeping both feet in contact with each other until you are at least 100 feet from the vehicle.

### Additional information

- The Public Safety Communications Center is utilizing the technology available to them such as 800MHz radio, the CAD system and continuous training of staff to efficiently deal with the

affects of monsoon season. Backup plans are in place to address unusual events such as power or telephone outages, etc.

• During a monsoon storm calls in to the Public Safety Communications Center more than double.

• One of the difficulties faced during the monsoon season is that residents will call 9-1-1 to find out about the status of their power outage.

• It is appropriate to call for electrical emergencies, but 9-1-1 will not know any information when it comes to duration of outages.

Precious time is spent referring citizens to the appropriate electric company. Keep these numbers handy:

- SRP 602-236-8888 to report a

power outage.

- SRP 602-236-8811 to report downed power lines or an electrical emergency.
- City of Mesa Electrical emergencies (power outages, lines down, transformer sparking), 480-644-2265 during regular business hours, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday excluding holidays; and 48-644-2262 after hours-weekends, nights and holidays.

For more information visit the National Weather Service Storm Ready site at [www.nws.noaa.gov/stormready](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/stormready).

*Editor's note: Marrisa P. Ramirez-Ramos is a public information specialist of fire and life safety education with the Mesa Fire Department and can be reached at 480-644-5620.*

# Corrections

The East Mesa Independent strives for accuracy and is pledged to bring errors that have appeared in our newspaper to the attention of our readers. In addition, we offer a "right of reply" to the people about whom we write. Readers who disagree with the content of a news story or the way it was handled or edited are welcome to respond with a letter to the editor or guest commentary and all such letters will be given priority over other submissions. We invite readers to call our newsroom at 480-982-7799 to report an error. Readers may also e-mail their comments to [emesanews@newszap.com](mailto:emesanews@newszap.com).



### Our Purpose...

The East Mesa Independent is published by Independent Newspapers of Arizona. Independent is owned by a unique trust that enables this newspaper to pursue a mission of journalistic service to the citizens of the community. Since no dividends are paid, the company is able to thrive on profit margins below industry standards. All after-tax surpluses are reinvested in Independent's mission of journalistic service, commitment to the ideals of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and support of the community's deliberation of public issues.

### We Pledge ...

- To operate this newspaper as a public trust
- To help our community become a better place to live and work, through our dedication to conscientious journalism.
- To provide the information citizens need to make their own intelligent decisions about public issues.
- To report the news with honesty, accuracy, purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.
- To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
- To disclose our own conflicts of interest or potential conflicts to our readers.
- To correct our errors and to give each correction the prominence it deserves.
- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

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